

losses, we should find this summer of 1892 a highly protective one in this sense. Never can I remember such a succession of spells of rain and so generally scattered over the country too. Certainly, forest fires which frequently do so much damage will have no chance this season. Lumber risks away from fire protective appliances should feel the benefit also, in a reduction of fire claims from among them.

Most of the representative fire insurance fraternity of Toronto are still away on their holiday taking. This, on the whole, has not been a bad season to stay in Toronto and enjoy your own home. I speak whereof I know.

Yours,

ARIEL.

TORONTO, 12th August, 1902.

### NEW YORK STOCK LETTER.

Office of Cummings & Co., 20 Broad St., New York city.  
New York, Aug. 13, 1902.

There has been little during the past week to disturb the summer dullness of the market, those who could have been away and those who could not go have been wishing that they could and have had little inclination to do anything market wise.

Rumour has it that Mr. Morgan sails for home on the steamer leaving to-day, and that by the time he arrives Mr. Keene will be on board and the decks will be cleared for action. From information which comes to us it would seem to be quite necessary for both of these gentlemen to be here in the very near future, for it is quite possible that some of their fences will need looking after, for there appears to be a somewhat diversified opinion as to the immediate future of the money market, and a glance at the situation may be both interesting and instructive. No one can deny the great prosperity of the country nor the fact that the crops for this season will be phenomenal.

These two facts are sufficient to make money more active and to increase the interest rate. Interior banks and institutions during the past two years have loaned freely upon local enterprises, and as the demand for moving the crops last year was comparatively light, they had considerable balances which they sent to this centre. This season, however, the demand for funds with which to move the crops will be great, and the first move will be to withdraw their funds here. This is already taking place, and as the movement increases the stringency will become greater in this market. This stringency will be made more acute by those operators who always wish to secure stocks at the lowest possible price before the real upward movement sets in.

To what extent Europe will come to the relief of the money market here remains to be seen. The outlook has already checked the outflow of gold, and should rates get abnormally high, we may expect to see gold come this way in considerable quantity. In view of this condition it would seem to be the part of wisdom for those who have profits in sight to take them and for all others to reduce their lines now, while losses are small and put themselves in a position to take advantage of the declines which are bound to ensue with a tight money market.

During the week the directors of the Colorado & Southern have declared a dividend of 2 per cent. upon the first Preferred stock, being an advance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. over the amount paid in the last dividend period. This property is showing steady advancement, and it is claimed that it will not be long before the company will be able to pay dividends upon the second Preferred. Upon all recessions of the market we think the securities of this company are an excellent purchase.

Rumour has it that the earnings of the United States Steel corporation for the month of July surpassed by some 15 per cent. what had been officially estimated, and that the figures for August are quite likely to exceed the official forecast by 25 per cent. So far, however, while strong these stocks have shown no decided inclination to advance.

At this time the figures of the export of merchandise are of the utmost importance; those given out for the foregoing week show that the value of such exports was \$9,513,910, against \$7,073,578 in the preceding week, and \$8,412,705 in the corresponding week of last year. The total since January 1 is \$295,950,251, against \$322,659,815 in the corresponding period of last year, showing a falling of some \$26,709,564. It is, however, to be noted that in some sections abroad there has been an almost total failure of crops, so that they will, of necessity, be obliged to draw upon this country for a considerable portion of their supplies. This will insure good prices to our producers and will go a very long way toward reducing our foreign indebtedness.

In this connection the estimates of the earnings of the Northern Securities Company, by Mr. J. J. Hill, its President, are most interesting, especially as it is claimed that Mr. Hill's forecast of earnings has never been at fault. He claims that his company will be able to earn \$150,000,000. If it does this, it will be an advance of \$24,000,000 over the earnings of the year just completed. His estimate of the earnings of the three roads is as follows: Burlington, \$60,000,000; Northern Pacific, \$50,000,000; Great Northern, \$40,000,000. Last year the earnings of the Great Northern were \$36,000,000 and the Northern Pacific \$41,000,000.

Mr. Hill further says that the grain tonnage will surpass anything in the history of the Northwest. It can readily be seen, therefore, that we shall be in an excellent position to supply whatever foreign demand may be made upon us.

As yet the coal strike is still unsettled, but it cannot be long now before the operators will become anxious to get the mines working again, and then a determined effort will be made to open them.

The market has been dull and strong all day, copper having been one of the weak stocks, but only showing a moderate decline.

### LONDON LETTER.

London, 31st July, 1902.

#### FINANCE.

Sore though they be about it, the settling-room and authorized clerks of the Stock Exchange will henceforward wear badges in the lapels of their coats—the distinctive colour for the first named gentlemen being red, and for the latter blue. The agitation which has worked up in fitful gusts, ever since the Committee decided upon this innovation, has been very amusing, and every well-known poem has been used by the parodist in this connection. "Badge" has been twisted into a thousand puns, good, bad, and worse; the clerks very palpably resent being ticketed as the inferior goods of the "House."

Markets continue to be duller than was at one time thought possible, and dealings are in nearly every section of the most meagre description. The holiday season is, of course, in full swing, but even before this the recent new issues, whether of companies or government loans, have only had the feeblest support accorded them.

#### INSURANCE.

Some years ago I remember the establishment in a hole-and-corner way in Bristol, of the New Era Friendly Collecting Society, for the transaction of life assurance. Even with good business management such a name would seriously handicap an organization, but it was evident that the New